

REMARKS

By this amendment claims 2-9, 11, 13-16, 18, 21 and 22 remain in this application. Claim 17 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 2-7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as unpatentable over Van der Burg, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,994,092) in view of Bosma, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,443,972). Claims 8, 15 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bosma in view of Van der Burg, et al and in further view of Gilson, et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0058911).

Applicants maintain that independent claims 18, 21 and 22 distinguish over the prior art as the combination fails to satisfy the recitations of these claims. However, to expedite prosecution, these claims have been amended to include recitations that the filter includes first and second ribs extending from adjacent struts and terminating at a joined region forming an unattached free end. Support for these amendments is provided on page 14 of the specification and Figures 21A-21C which clearly illustrate the unattached structure of the ribs.

None of the prior art, taken alone or in combination, satisfies the recitations of claims 18, 21, and 22 as amended, and therefore withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

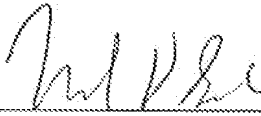
Note claims 2-9, 11 and 13-16 depend from independent claims 18, 21 or 22 and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons as claims 18, 21 and 22 are believed patentable. Note also that Gilson does not cure the deficiencies of Bosma and Van der Burg.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should the Examiner believe it would expedite prosecution.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **501567**. In the event any extensions of time are required with this Amendment, please treat this paper as a petition for such extension. The Commissioner is hereby authorized charge the required extension fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.17, to Deposit Account No. **501567**.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
Neil D. Gershon
Reg. No. 32,225
Attorney for Applicant

Neil D. Gershon
1011 High Ridge Road
Stamford, CT 06905
(203) 329-0289